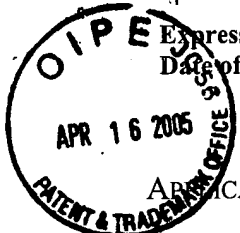


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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Hopkins et al.  
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/722,279 EXAMINER: Javier G. Blanco  
FILING DATE: November 24, 2003 ART UNIT: 3738  
FOR: CARDIAC VALVE REPLACEMENT

April 15, 2005  
Boston, Massachusetts

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

In response to the Office action mailed on October 15, 2004, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.